SECRETARY
August 31, 1916

EGYPTIAN CHRONOLOGY.

Predynastic Period. About 4500-3300 B. C.

Subdivided into Early, Middle and Late Predynastic.

Early Dynastic Period. Dynasties I. and II. About 3300-3000 B. C.

Old Empire. Dynasties III. to VI. 3000-2400 B. C.

The great culminating period.

Intermediate Period. Dynasties VII. to X. 2400-2100 B. C.

Political disunion and economic depression.

Middle Empire. Dynasties XI. to XIII. 2100-1700 B. C.

Feudal Age.

Hyksos Period. Dynasties XIV. to XVI. 1700-1600 B. C.

Disunion and subjection to foreigners.

New Empire. Dynasties XVII. to XIX. 1700-1200 B. C.

Period of political and religious organization. Economic prosperity based largely on foreign conquest. Great architectural activity.

Late Period. Dynasties XX. to XXV. 1200-663 B. C.

Domination of Amon priesthood. Usurpation of Libyan mercenaries. Conquest of Egypt by Aethiopia and Assyria.

Renaissance. Dynasty XXVI. 663-525 B. C.

Persian Period. Dynasties XXVII. to XXX. 525-332 B. C.

Persian conquest.

Ptolemaic Period. 332-30 B. C.

Greek domination.

Roman Period. 30 B. C. - 394 A. D.

Byzantine (Coptic) Period. 394-638 A. D.

Moslem Period. 638 A. D. to present day.

EGYPTIAN AMULETS.

The Egyptian religion taught that after death the soul journeyed through the "Western Land", where it led a life similar to that on earth, but was exposed to the attacks of malignant spirits and to the baleful influences of magic. This journey ended in the "Hall of Judgment", where the heart of the dead man was weighed, and if found satisfactory was allowed to proceed to the "Land of the Blessed". Amulets were used to ward off the dangers which threatened the soul on this journey, and to give it strength and assistance against the enemies which lay in wait. They were also worn as protective charms by the living.

The amulets used in Egypt are very numerous. Many take the form of images of the gods, or of the animals sacred to them, and were supposed to ensure the special protection of that deity to the wearer; while others represent inanimate objects or conventional signs, and endowed the wearer with some special quality or power.

The amulets were worn by the living or buried with the dead, being hung or laid upon certain parts of the body, where their position was supposed to lend them special potency.

Images of the Gods.

1 and 2.

Amon-Ra.

The great Theban Sun God, and King of the Gods.

1. The Ram-headed Amon. (Faience).

2. The Human-headed Amon, wearing the feather crown. (Faience).

3.

Horus.

The Sun God, son of Osiris and Isis, wearing the double crown of Upper and Lower Egypt. The hawk was his sacred animal, and he is often represented as hawk-headed. (Faience).

4.

Harpokrates.

"Horus the Child". (Ivory).

5.

Anubis.

The Jackal-headed God of the Underworld. He took charge of the mummy when it was placed in the tomb. (Faience).

6.

Bast.

The Cat or Lioness-headed Goddess of the Heat of the Sun. (Faience).

7.

Bes.

The Dwarf God, patron of child-birth, the toilet, dancing, music and revelry. (Faience).

8, 9, 10 and 11.

The Four Genii of the Underworld.

Hapi, Tuamutef, Mestha, and Qebhsennuf. They were the four sons of Horus, and had charge of the internal organs of the dead, which were placed in jars surmounted by the heads of these genii. (Faience).

12.

Isis.

Wife of Osiris and mother of Horus. The perfect wife and mother, and goddess of enchantment. (Lapis lazuli).

13.

Maat.

Goddess of Truth. Associated with Thoth in judging the dead. (Lapis lazuli).

14.

Nephthys.

Sister of Isis. Protectress of the mummy. (Faience).

15.

Triad.

Isis, Horus and Nephthys. (Faience).

16.

Ptah.

God of arts and handicrafts, the maker of the new body for the soul in the underworld. (Faience).

17.

Shu.

God of light and of the air, who upholds the sky. (Faience).

18.

Thoeris.

Hippopotamus-headed goddess, presiding over child-birth, and guardian of the dead. (Faience).

19.

Thoth.

Ibis-headed god, who kept the record of the judgment of the dead. He later became the god of learning and books. (Faience).

Animals.

20.

Ape.

Dog-headed ape, sacred to Thoth (19) and associated with him in the weighing of the heart in the Hall of Judgment. (Faience).

21.

Bull.

Held sacred in many cities of ancient Egypt, and associated with various gods in different places. The Apis Bull, held sacred at Memphis, is perhaps the best known. (Faience).

22.

Cat.

Sacred to Bast, patroness of Bubastis. (Faience).

23.

Cow.

With legs tied for sacrifice, an amuletic food-offering for the dead. (Red steatite).

24.

Crocodile.

Sacred to Sebek, and personifying evil and death. (Faience).

25.

Fish.

Sometimes sacred to Hathor, and also conceived of as guardian of the boat of the sun-god. (Faience).

26.

Frog.

Sacred to Heqet, and personifying teeming life and possibly resurrection. (Carnelian).

27.

Goose or Duck.

Sacred to Amon-Ra and Seb. Used principally as a food offering. This example bears the sign "beautiful" on the lower side, and probably refers to Amon-Ra, who was called the "Beautiful Goose". (Faience).

28.

Hare.

Sacred to Wen or Osiris Wen-nefer. (Faience).

29.

Hawk.

Sacred to Horus, bird of the Sun. (Faience).

30.

Pair of Human-headed Hawks.

Crowned with sun-discs. Representing the "Ba", or soul, which at death flew away to the gods. This amulet was intended to enable the soul to re-visit its body at will. (Faience).

31.

Ibis.

A species of crane, sacred to Thoth. (Faience).

32.

Jackal.

Sacred to Anubis, god of the Underworld. The amulet is intended to ensure the placing of the body under the care of Anubis. (Steatite?).

33.

Lion.

Associated with the idea of divine or royal power and wisdom. (Faience).

34.

Ram.

Chiefly sacred to Amon-Ra and to Osiris, though also associated with other gods. (Faience).

35.

Scorpion.

Emblem of the goddess Serqet, one of the four divinities who guarded the tomb. (Faience).

36.

Scorpion with Human Head.

Representing the goddess Serqet or possibly Isis. (Faience).

37.

Sow or Pig.

Sacred to Isis (and possibly Set). The wearer of the amulet was assured the protection of Osiris. (Faience).

38.

Head of Serpent.

Placed on the mummy as a protection against snake-bite. (Black stone).

39.

Uraeus.

An asp or cobra, an image of which was placed on the headdresses of royalty and gods. (The word is of Greek Origin). Emblem of divine and royal authority and life. (Faience).

40.

Uraeus.

(Carnelian).

Miscellaneous.

41.

Heart.

Represents the power of living and will. (Carnelian).

42.

Aegis of Isis.

A broad bead collar, surmounted by the head of the goddess. Its amuletic value is unknown. (Faience). (For a collar of this type, compare the gold and faience necklace in the case on the west wall of the Old Empire Room).

43.

Ankh.

The symbol of life. (Faience).

44.

Fingers.

The two fingers of Horus, by which he assists the deceased to mount the ladder to Heaven. (Black glass).

45.

Hedt.

The White Crown of Upper Egypt, symbolic of the sovereignty of the South. (Faience).

46.

Angle.

A right angle, probably denoting moral rectitude. (Hematite?).

47.

Menat.

Represents a whip handle, symbolic of nutrition, strength, and the powers of generation and reproduction. The sight of it was supposed to banish care. (Faience).

48.

Nefer.

Denotes happiness and good luck. (Black glass).

49.

Sun Disc.

Gave the power to look at the sun. (Serpentine).

50.

Cartouche.

Symbolic of the name of the deceased; its wearing prevented the name from being blotted out in the next world. (Faience).

51.

Plummet.

Represents a mason's plummet, and was probably worn to impart "an evenly balanced mind". (Black stone).

52.

Tesher.

Represents the Red Crown of Lower Egypt, emblem of the sovereignty of the North. (Faience).

53.

Ded.

A symbol associated with Osiris and denoting firmness, preservation, etc. (Faience).

54.

Buckle of Isis.

Ensures the protection of Isis. (Faience).

55.

Papyrus Amulet.

Represents a papyrus stalk and flower, giving vigor and renewed youth to the deceased. (Faience).

56.

Pillow.

Intended to ensure peaceful sleep in the tomb. (Compare with alabaster pillows found under the heads of bodies, shown in the Old Empire Room). (Hematite?).

57.

Ud'at Eye.

Represents the eye of Horus, i. e., the sun or moon. Used as a charm against the evil eye. (Faience).

58.

Sun's Disc and Horns. (?).

Symbol of Hathor or Isis? (Faience).

Scarabs.

The Scarabaeus Sacer is a kind of beetle common in Egypt, and thought by the ancient Egyptians to be immortal. The Egyptian scarab is an image of this insect, often inscribed on the flat lower face, and symbolizing immortality.

59.

Heart Scarab.

Placed on the body as a substitute for the heart, which was separately embalmed (see 8, 9, 10, 11), and enabling the deceased to "exist anew". (Faience).

60.

Scarab.

Used either as a seal or as an ornament. This example is inscribed with the name of Rameses II., and with the figure of the king standing between two gods.

Dows Dunham.